

ABSTRACT

VACUUM PACKAGING MACHINE

5 A vacuum packaging machine for performing a vacuum sealing operation on
product packages, comprises a vertical stack of vacuum chambers 4 which each
manage to receive at least one unsealed product package 2 and are operable to
perform an independent vacuum sealing operation on the least one product package
2. A conveyor arrangement 8, 9 is operable to load and unload a selected vacuum
10 chamber 4 with the at least one product package, and the machine is arranged to
operate the respective vacuum chambers 4 to perform the vacuum sealing operation
while the conveyor arrangement is operated to load and unload another vacuum
chamber 4. The conveyor arrangement loads and unloads the vacuum chambers in
sequence, and the vacuum chambers are synchronously operated to perform the
15 vacuum sealing operation to allow the conveyor arrangement to operate
continuously. The conveyor arrangement comprises at least one in-feed conveyor 8
and at least one out-feed conveyor 9 which are independently movable to select the
vacuum chamber to be loaded and unloaded. There may be a plurality of in-feed
conveyors 8 and a plurality of out-feed conveyors 9. The vacuum chambers each
20 have a sealing bar arranged along one side for sealing the product packages 2.